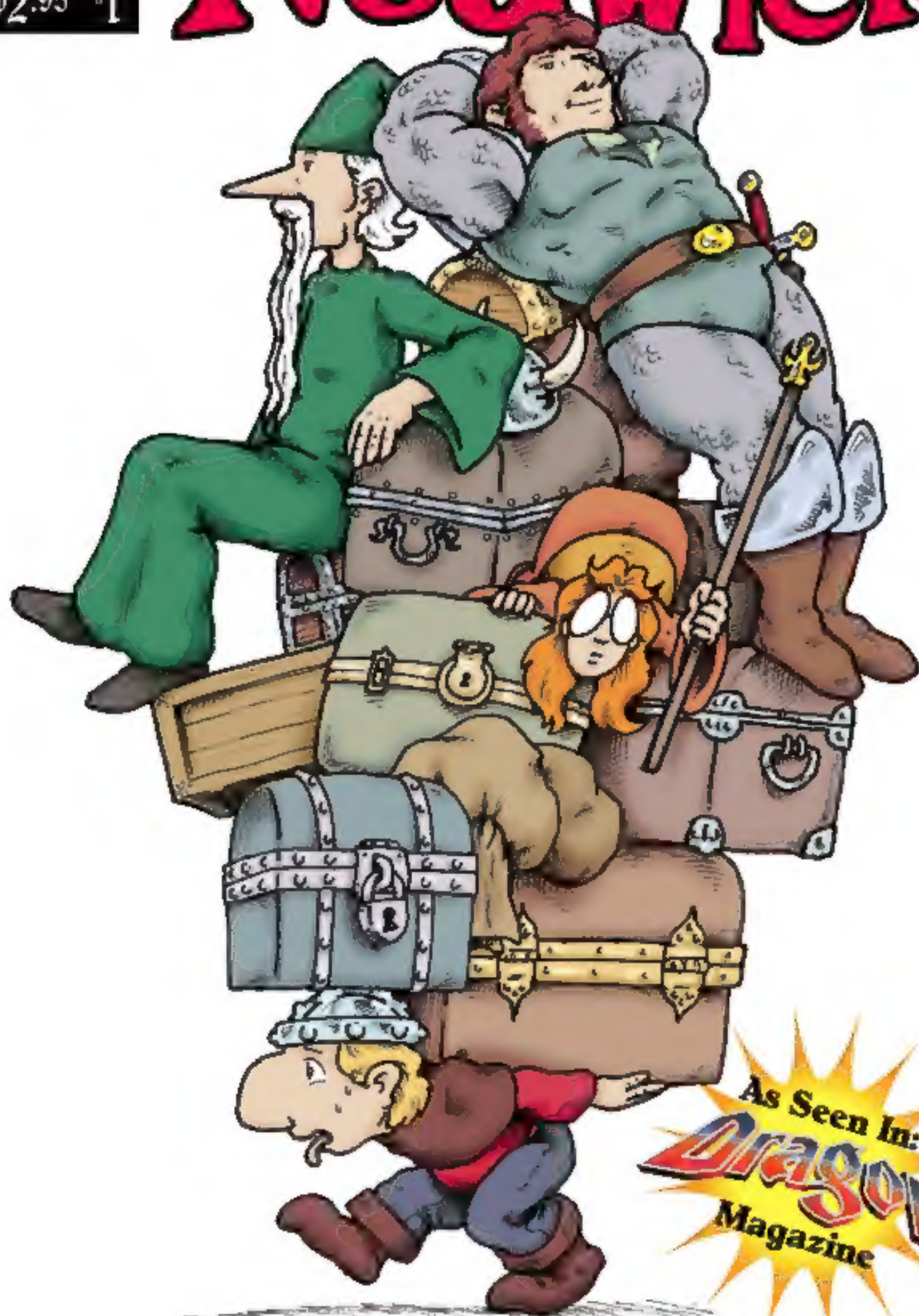




Noodwick™



As Seen In:
Dragon®
Magazine
Amesbury

Nodwick

in:

"Lo, I Am God,
and So
Am I!"

BARKEEP!!
'NUTHER ROUN'!

WHY
DO YOU
LET HIM
GET LIKE
THIS?

BECAUSE HE
GETS INTO MORE
TROUBLE IF HE'S
SOBER.



SAME
AGAIN?

YOU
BESHA!
WHADD'YA
CALL THIZ
DRINK?

SQUEEZED
BAR RAG.

OHYEH...

HOW CAN
YOU DRINK
THAT?

I ONLY DRINKZ
THIS SCHUFF WHEN
'M BROKE.

AND WHEN
YOU HAVE
MONEY?

I ORDERZ
THINGZAT DON'
TASTE LIKEA
TROLLZ ARM-
FIT!



IT'S NOON,
YEAGAR! TIME
FOR YOUR
MORALITY
RESTORATION!

DING!

DARN IT,
PIFFANK!
I WAS FEELING
PRETTY GOOD,
THERE! NOW
I DON'T FEEL
A THING!

YOU
DON'T?

OOPSIE!
I FORGOT
THE OTHER
HALF OF
THE SPELL!

DONG!

SO YOU
FINALLY GOT
THE ULTRA
HANGOVER
PLUG-IN?

OW!
HEED!
URG!
AHH!
OUCH!
PAIN!
OOO!
KILL
ME!
AUGH!

YEP! MY
TEMPLE
APPROVED IT
LAST WEEK!

WE HAVE GOT
TO FIND A
JOB SOON...

I KNOW! THEY'VE
REVOKED THE "FREE
PEANUTS" POLICY
BECAUSE OF US. I
THINK THEY'RE GOING
TO REVOKE THE
RESTROOM NEXT.

JEEZE... YOU VAPORIZE
ONE CASTLE AND
SUDDENLY NO ONE
WILL TOUCH YOU.

AHEM.

WE WISH TO
RETAIN YOUR
SERVICES.

YES?

WHY? DO
YOU HAVE A
BUILDING THAT'S
TOO PERMANENT
FOR YOUR
TASTE—NMH!

QUITE THE
REVERSE: WE HAVE A STRUCTURE
WE WANT FOUND. IF YOU SUCCEED,
PERHAPS BALANCE WILL RETURN
TO YOUR REPUTATION.

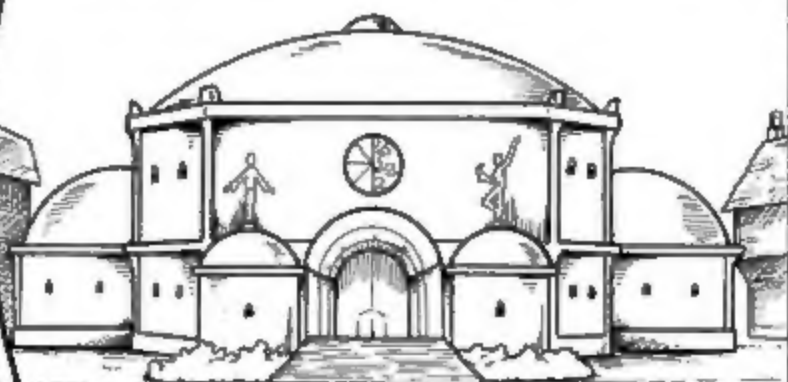
WHAT EXACTLY
WOULD WE BE
LOOKING FOR?

THE LOST
TEMPLE OF
SKIZZOPREEN!

LOST FOR
HOW LONG?
DECADES?
CENTURIES?

ABOUT
A WEEK,
ACTUALLY...

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE DEVOTED TO THE DITTY WHOSE NAME IT
BEARS. SKIZZOPREEN IS A GOD WITH TWO FORMS: ONE ASPECT BRINGS
THE BLESSINGS OF ORDER, THE OTHER SENDS THE CURSES OF CHAOS...



WE WHO SERVE HIS
ORDERED SIDE, JAGQUEL,
WERE GIVEN A DIVINE
TASK: TO PURGE THE
TEMPLE OF HIS ALTER-EGO'S
CHAOTIC INFLUENCE!
THIS EDICT CAME FROM
JAGQUEL HIMSELF!

HE GAVE US HOLY
VISIONS TO GUIDE OUR
QUEST TO FIND THE
COMPONENTS FOR THE
PURIFYING RITUAL...

...BUT SOMETHING
EVIL CAME OVER OUR
HOME, FOR WHEN WE
RETURNED...



THE TEMPLE
HAD VANISHED!



DARK
NAUGHTINESS
ABOUT! ARE
THERE ANY
CLUES AS
TO WHAT DID
THIS?

ALL THAT
REMAINS IS THIS
INDECIPHERABLE
SCRIPT.



"THE HONKED-
OFF HIPPOGRYFF
BAR AND GRILL."

ON THE
OTHER
SIDE...



WHOA!
IT HURTS
TO LOOK
AT THIS!

IT MUST
BE ACCURSED!



THIS IS OUR OFFER:
WE WILL PAY YOU
5,000 GOLD IF YOU
FIND OUR TEMPLE!



WE'LL
DO IT!



WHAT?
WITH AN
UNREADABLE
COCKTAIL
NAPKIN AS
OUR ONLY
CLUE?



WE WILL
EAGERLY
AWAIT
YOUR RETURN.

KEEP THAT FIVE GRAND
WARM! BARKEEP! YOUR
BEST RAG SQUEEZINGS FOR
THESE FINE PEOPLE, ON ME!



ARE YOU
NUTS? WE
MIGHT NOT
FIND EVEN
ONE BRICK
OF THE
TEMPLE!



FOR THAT
KIND OF
CASH, I'D
BUILD THEM
A TEMPLE!

HMM... I'M
UNFAMILIAR WITH
ANY TECHNIQUE
THAT CAN MAKE A
BUILDING DISAPPEAR
LIKE THIS.



YEAH. WHEN
WE MAKE A
BUILDING GO AWAY,
THERE'S USUALLY
LOTS OF BITS AND
PIECES SCATTERED
EVERYWHERE.

ALONG WITH
A BIGGER HOLE.

THIS
WRITING
LOOKS REALLY
FAMILIAR.
ARTAX.



I'VE TRIED
EVERY TRANSLATION
SPELL I KNOW.
NODWICK NOTHING
WORKS!



AH-HA!
I REMEMBER
WHERE I'VE
SEEN IT
BEFORE!!



CHECK
IT OUT.



THEY MATCH!

YEP! YEAGAR WROTE
THAT WHEN HE SIGNED
MY TIME SHEET.

BUT WHY IS HIS HAND-
WRITING THE SAME AS THAT
ON OUR MYSTERY NOTE?

HE'D BEEN DRINKING
FROM THE TAVERN MOP
BUCKET THAT NIGHT.

OH.

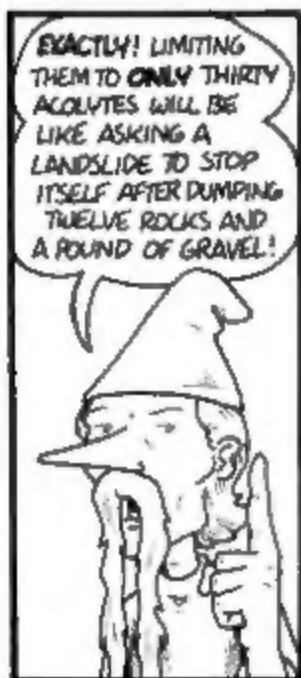
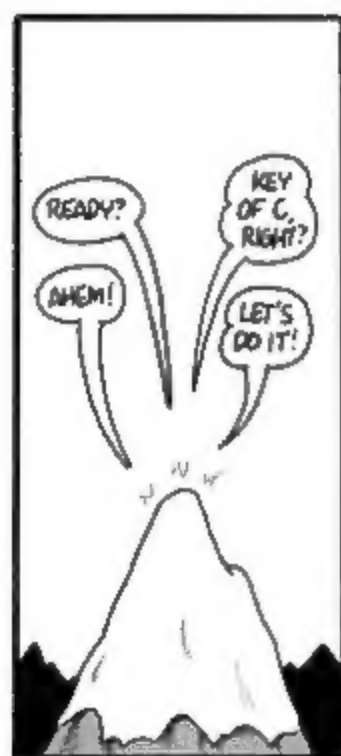


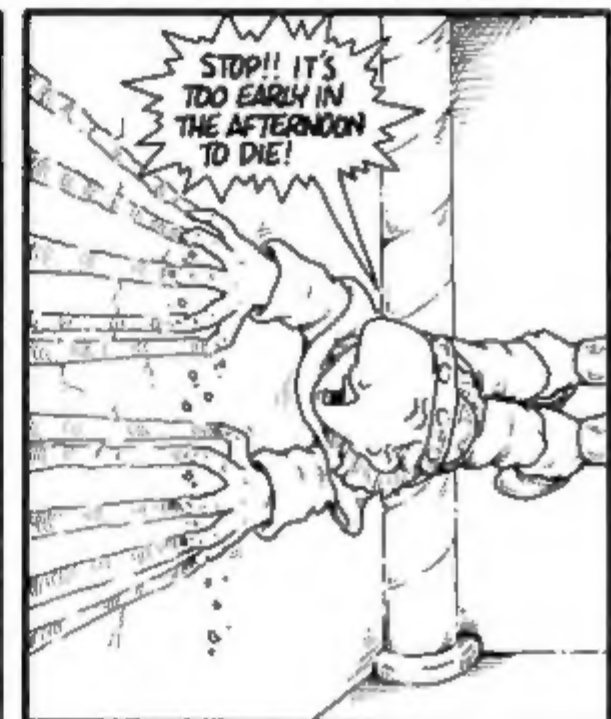
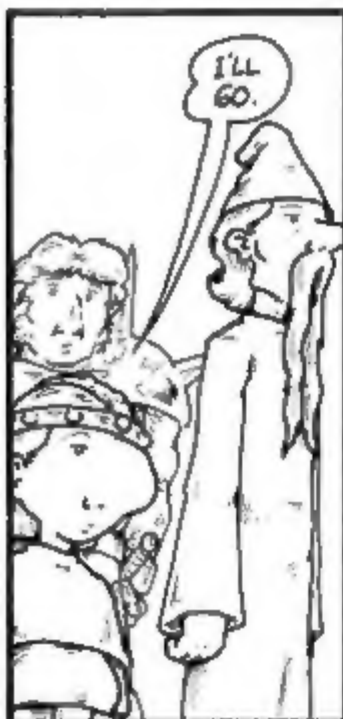
SO, IF
THIS NOTE WAS
WRITTEN BY A DRUNKEN
LOUT, ANOTHER SOUSE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
READ IT!

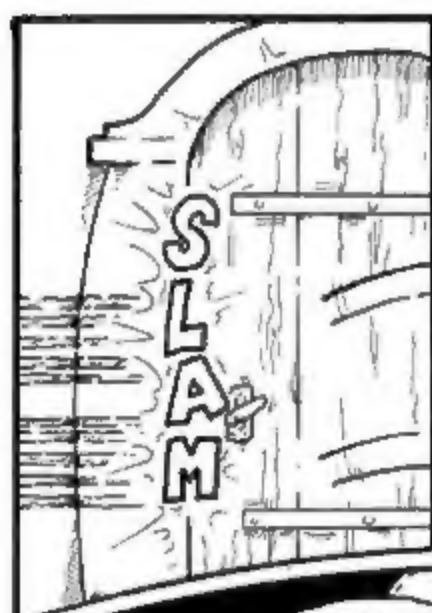
SOUNDS
LOGICAL.

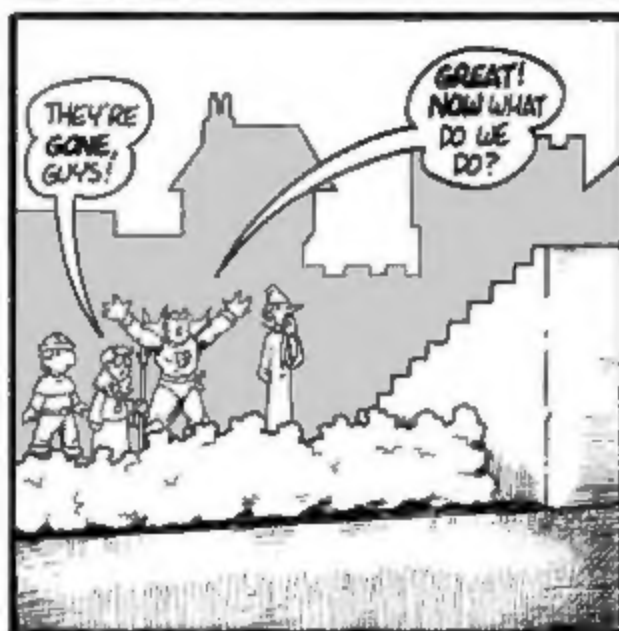














LOOK, WE'RE ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION, SO I'LL CUT TO THE CHASE: WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO OBTAIN THE FORMULA TO YOUR "SKULL WHOMPER" ALE?

SORRY, I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU FOR ANY PRICE.

PIFFANY, GO WAIT OUTSIDE. UNCLE ARTAX NEEDS TO DO NOT-NICE THINGS TO THIS MAN'S SOUL.

HANG ON A MINUTE, TRIGGER; I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE FORMULA BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS! WE STEAL THE ALE FROM THE DRAGON'S LAIR IN CRAGMANGLE CANYON!

A DRAGON ACTUALLY MAKES IT? WHY?

I DUNNO. WHY DON'T YOU GO AND FIND OUT? TAKE PLENTY OF BACTINE; THE CANYON AREA IS VOLCANIC.

YIPPEE!! LET'S GO FIGHT A RAGON!

AARRRGH!!

LATER, AT CRAGMANGLE CANYON.

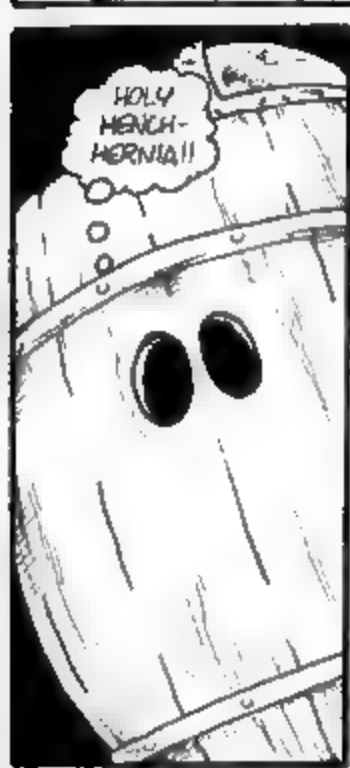
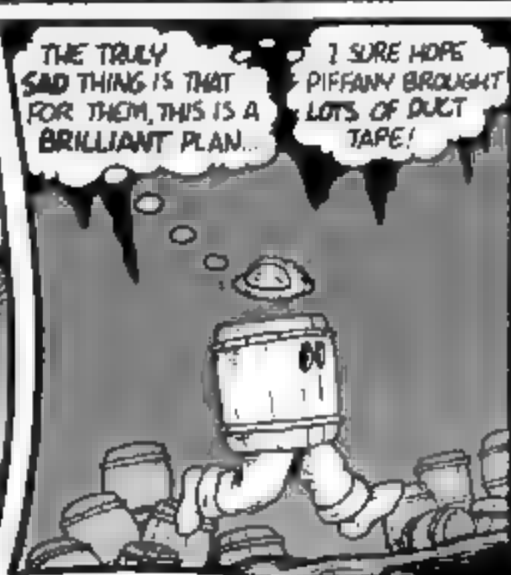
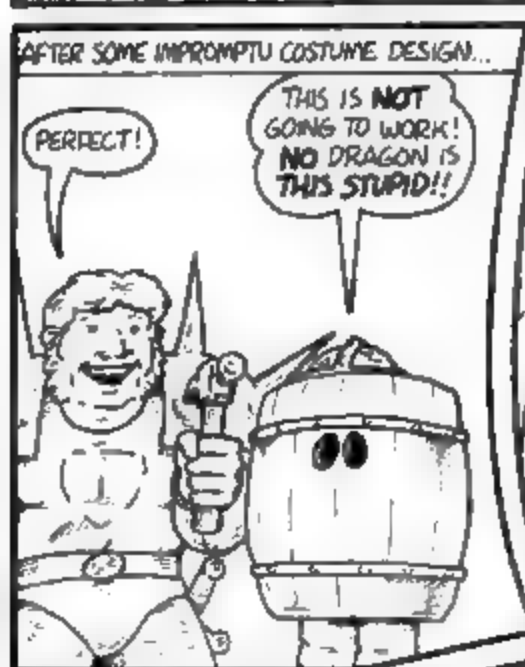
ARTAX, YEAGAR JUST WENT SHIPPING OFF YELLING SOMETHING ABOUT "PLAYING A WAGON."

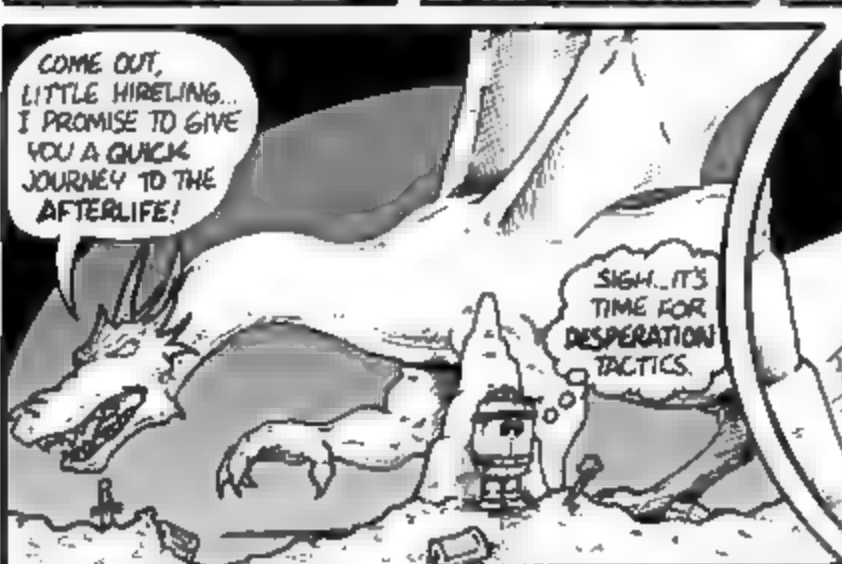
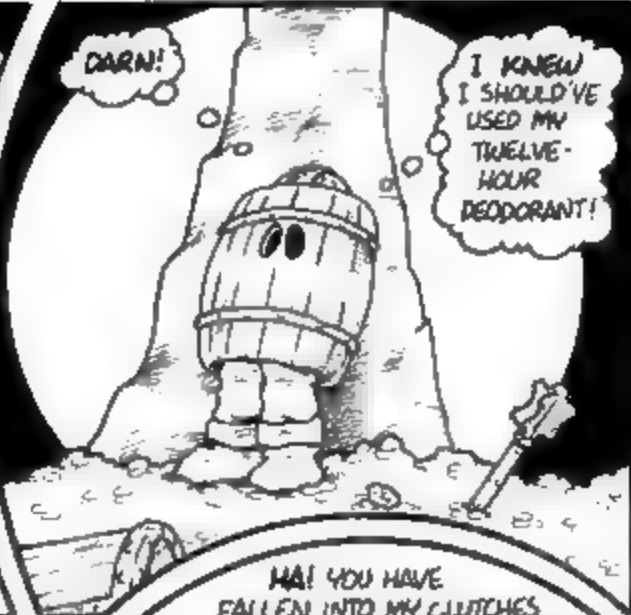
SIGH... SO MUCH FOR THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

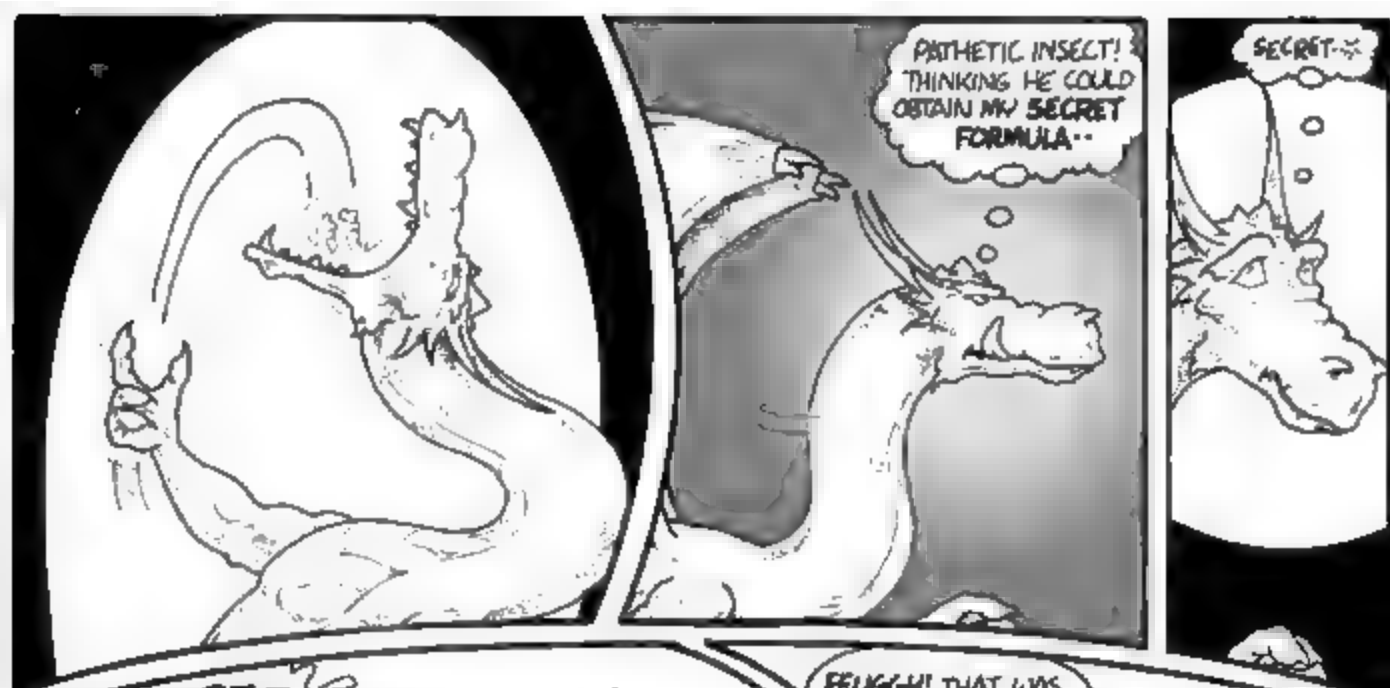
HMM... NO BLOOD STAINS ANYWHERE. WE MUST'VE BEATEN YEAGAR HERE.

HOW'S YOUR HEAD?

BETTER; THE DULL THROBBING HAS MOVED FROM APOCALYPTIC TO MERELY TORTUROUS.





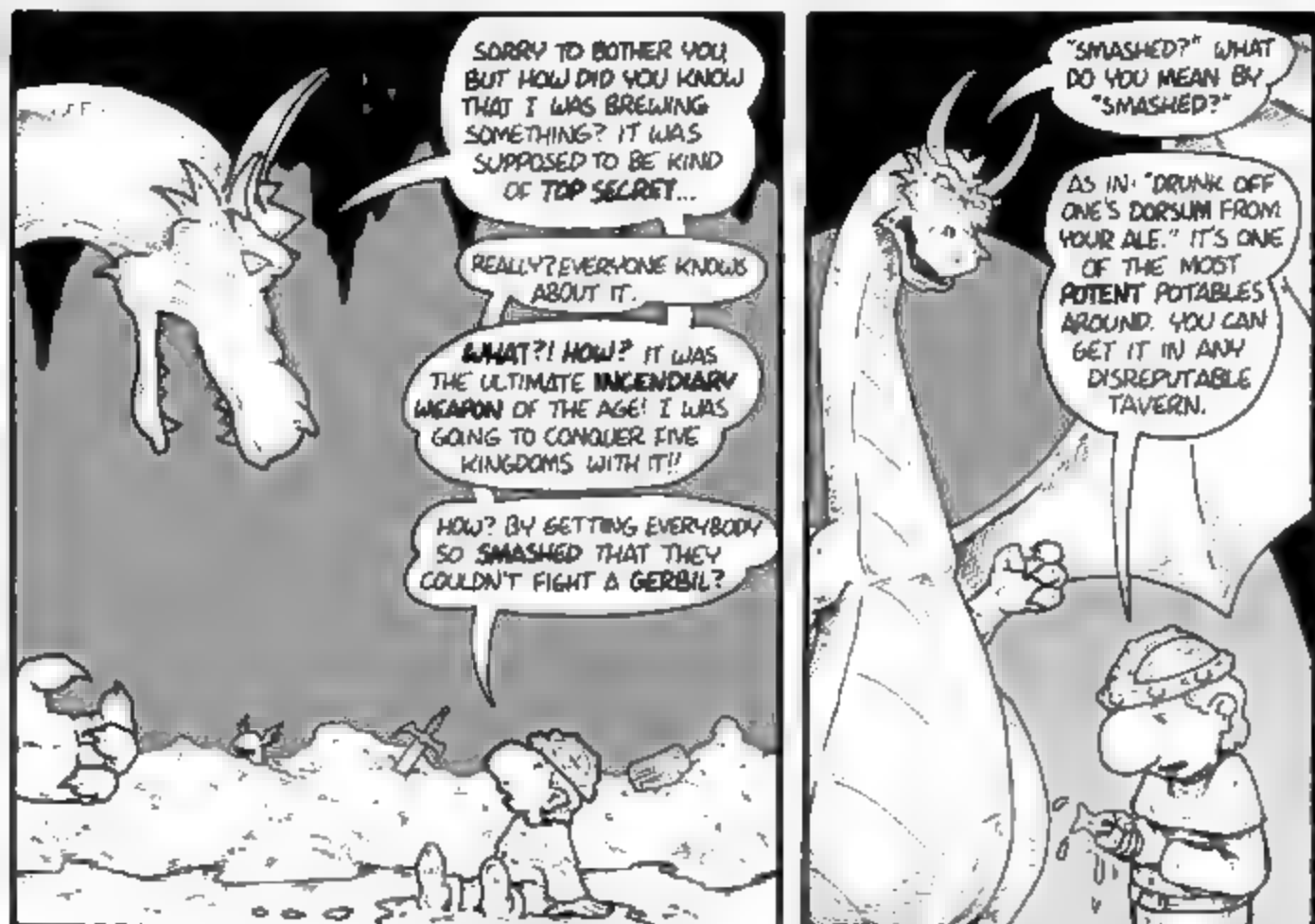


PATHETIC INSECT!
THINKING HE COULD
OBTAIN MY SECRET
FORMULA...

SECRET...



EEUGH! THAT WAS
WORSE THAN THE
TIME WHEN SOME
OGRES TOSSED
ME DOWN
THEIR
OUTHOUSE!



SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW
THAT I WAS BREWING
SOMETHING? IT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE KIND
OF TOP SECRET...

REALLY? EVERYONE KNOWS
ABOUT IT.

WHAT?! HOW? IT WAS
THE ULTIMATE INCENDIARY
WEAPON OF THE AGE! I WAS
GOING TO CONQUER FIVE
KINGDOMS WITH IT!

HOW? BY GETTING EVERYBODY
SO SMASHED THAT THEY
COULDN'T FIGHT A GERBIL?

"SMASHED?" WHAT
DO YOU MEAN BY
"SMASHED?"

AS IN: "DRUNK OFF
ONE'S DORSUM FROM
YOUR ALE." IT'S ONE
OF THE MOST
POTENT POTABLES
AROUND. YOU CAN
GET IT IN ANY
DISREPUTABLE
TAVERN.

ALE? I'VE BEEN
MAKING EXPLO--
1+1=3

LET ME SEE IF I
UNDERSTAND: PEOPLE
FOUND MY BARRELS?
THEY TOOK THEM?

YES.
THEY'VE DELIVERED
THEM TO TAVERNS?

YES
AND THEN...

THEY
ACTUALLY
DRINK
WHAT'S IN
THEM?!

UH, YES
IS THAT
WRONG?

NEVER MIND!
HERE, TAKE THE
RECIPE! JUST NEVER
REVEAL ITS ORIGIN; I'D
BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK
OF WHORKIND!

WHY IS
THIS LABELED
"LIQUID OF FIERY
VENGEANCE?"

LOOK,
BEAT IT! TAKE
SOME GOLD IF
YOU WANT, BUT
PLEASE LEAVE
ME IN MY SHAME!

SOB!

WHAT THE--
HEY! IT'S
NODWICK!

AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE HE
HAS THE
FORMULA!

YOU LOOK
SURPRISED
TO SEE
ME! DIDN'T
YOU THINK
YOUR PLAN
WOULD WORK?

OF COURSE
WE DID!
WE--

AHEM!

WELL, NO
MATTER HOW
BRILLIANT A
PLAN IS, IT'S
GOOD TO HAVE
A BACKUP.

"OH, HELP! I
AM A LOST
PRINCESS WHO
HOPES NO NASTY
DRAGONS ARE
AROUND! HOW
DEFENSELESS I
AM. BOO-HOO."

OUR HEROES RETURN TO THE TEMPLE SITE...

WE'RE BACK AT THE OL' HOLE ON THE RANGE. NOW WHAT?

I FOUND ANOTHER NOTE!

BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE YEAGAR MAGICALLY MESSED-UP UNTIL TOMORROW!

OH, WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT THE HARD WAY!



KA-BLOOIE!

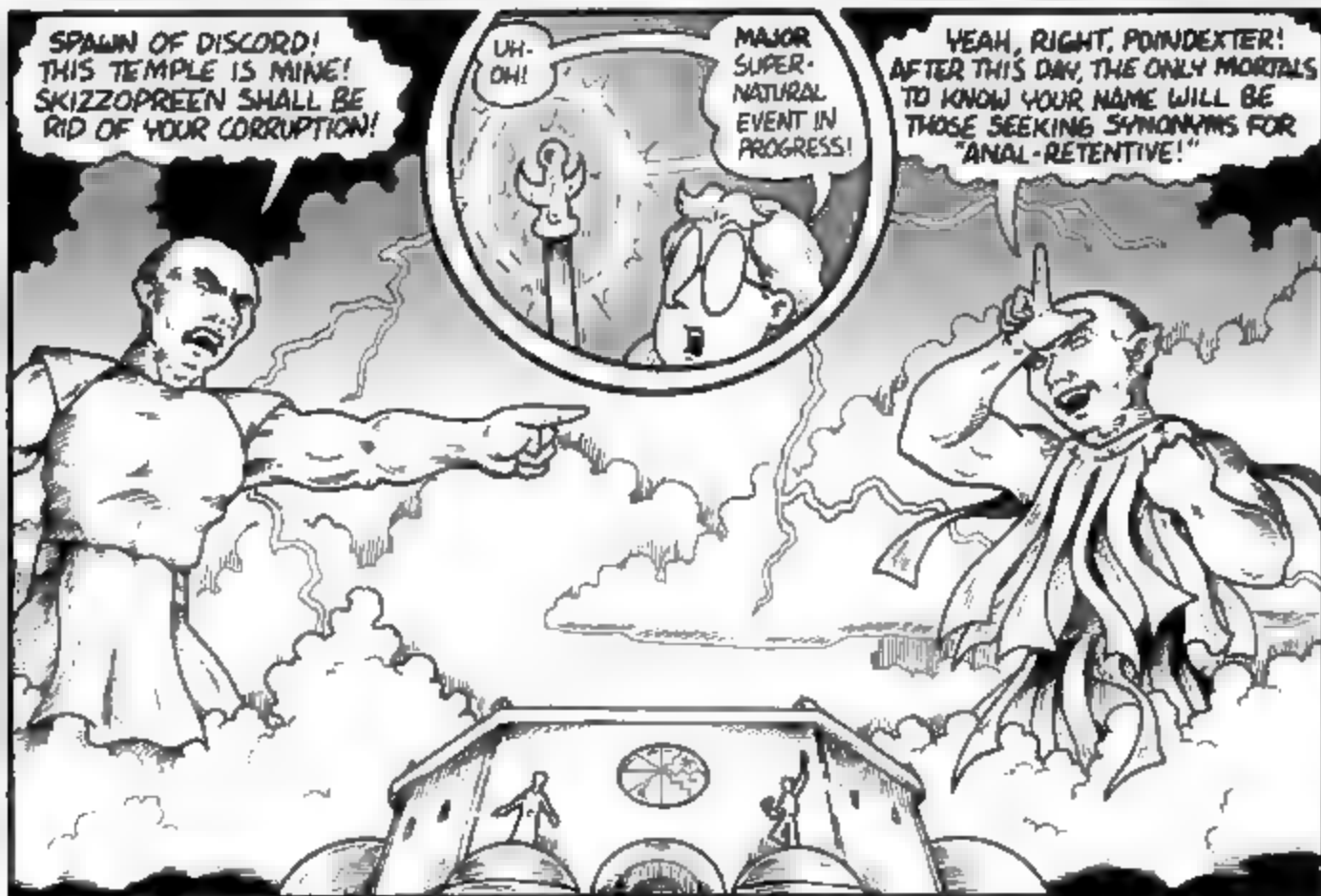
IF YOU HAD READ THE RECIPE, YOU WOULD'VE SEEN THIS WARNING ABOUT EXPOSING TOO MUCH OF THE LIQUID TO OXYGEN!

HEY, LOOK!

IT WAS INVISIBLE THE WHOLE TIME!









SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! ONE WEEK AGO, THEY LIVED IN HARMONY! NOW, THE JAGUEELS AND HAIKEDS ARE WAGING A HOLY WAR ON EACH OTHER!

I HEARD THAT IT STARTED WHEN HAIKED PUT A WHOOPEE CUSHION IN OL' JAGUEEL'S CELESTIAL THRONE!

NAH, IT WAS WHEN JAGUEEL DECLARED THAT ALL SACRAMENTAL WINE WAS IMMORAL AND TURNED IT INTO PRUNE JUICE. THE HAIKEDS WENT BALLISTIC!

BUT WHY ALL THIS VIOLENCE AND STRIFE?

PROBABLY BECAUSE NO ONE'S INVENTED PROZAC FOR GODS YET.

CHEER UP, PIF! IT'S NOT SO BAD!

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU GOT TO PLUNDER AND LOOT WHEN THE FIGHTING BROKE OUT!

WE EXPLAINED THAT: IF WE DON'T TAKE THIS STUFF, IT'LL WIND UP BEING USED TO FUND THIS VISCIOUS SACRED SMITEFEST!

AH, SO WE DID THIS CITY A FAVOR WHEN WE EMPTIED THEIR WISHING WELLS, RIGHT?

SHADDAP!

GILTE-
HAVEN
14 mi

END

Nodwick

"What're You Tryin' to Pull?"

WHOO! CHECK OUT THE EDGE ON THAT! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S LEFT OUT WHERE ANYONE COULD TAKE IT!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY ENCHANTED. I DOUBT YOU CAN JUST WALK OFF WITH IT UNLESS YOU'RE "CHOSEN," "DESTINED," "ANointed," "FATED" OR "ENDOWED."

"ENDOWED," HUH?

WATCH IT!

SORRY. WELL, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT; THAT SWORD IS MOST LIKELY A PERMANENT ROCK ACCESSORY.

AHEM!

NODWICK AND I HAVE FINISHED SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES.

ARTAX, I REALLY WISH YOU'D BUY YOUR UNDERWEAR YOURSELF. BRIEFS EMBROIDERED WITH STARS AND MOONS AREN'T—

SHHH!

SHHH!

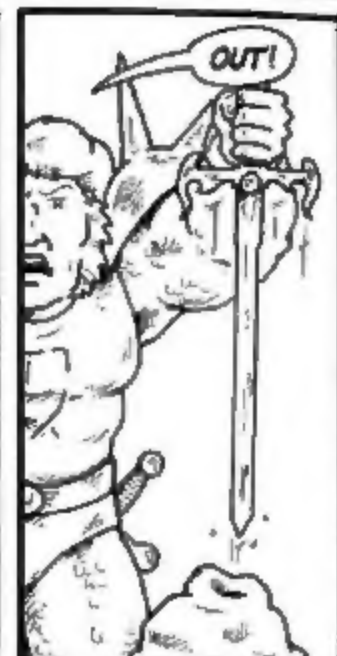
STILL, IT DOESN'T HURT TO TRY...

AIEEEE!!

HUH?

YOU IDIOT!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!









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